

Economic Development Programs in Maine

Recommendations/Issues Identified for Potential GOC Action as of October 15, 2015

- A. Need to Improve Efficiency, Effectiveness and Value of DECD's Future Evaluations of Economic Development Programs
 - 1. Combine separate statutorily required Research and Development Programs Evaluation and Comprehensive Economic Development Evaluation into one evaluation (statutory change)
 - 2. Establish timeline for the evaluation that provides increased opportunity for legislative review, consideration and action on reported results or related initiatives proposed by DECD (possible statutory change)
 - 3. Ensure there is an adequate level of funding available to accomplish the evaluation on the desired timeline (reconsideration of current funding mechanism and possible statutory change)
 - 4. Further define and clarify scope and expectations for the DECD evaluation (possible statutory change)
 - 5. If part of the scope of the evaluation is to determine how well the State is achieving its economic development strategy (goals and objectives), then establish a requirement that a formal, public, current economic development strategy must be developed and maintained (statutory change)
 - 6. Establish function, process and tools for DECD to efficiently and regularly collect from benefitting organizations the data/information needed to monitor and evaluate program activity and effectiveness for ALL economic development programs in the State's portfolio/inventory (this will likely require additional DECD resources on on-going basis and one time resources to design and build the process and tools that would support this function including determining what data needs to be collected – may require statutory changes)
 - 7. Establish mechanism that gives DECD, and others as necessary, authority and clout to compel organizations to provide the data requested (statutory change)
 - 8. Establish expectation and process for ensuring DECD evaluations of economic development programs and OPEGA evaluations of tax expenditures are coordinated and complementary rather than duplicative (statutory change)
 - 9. Establish expectation, responsibilities and mechanism for ensuring results and recommendations from DECD evaluations are considered and acted on as appropriate by Administration and/or Legislature (statutory change)
- B. Ensure Administration and/or Legislature, as appropriate, fully reviews and considers results and recommendations from most recent DECD evaluations reported on in 2014.
 - 1. Determine who should be responsible for this and establish a process and time line for consideration of these reports.